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Message Text

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL NATO MILI DA US
SUBJ: DANISH DEFENSE SPENDING

REF: (A) STATE 310775, (B) USNATO 7011

1. WHEN I SAW MFA PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN DECEMBER 29TH, I VOICED ONCE AGAIN DEEP CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCED DANISH DEFENSE SPENDING. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT I MIGHT BE TIMELY FOR THE DANISH PERM REP, AMBASSADOR SVART, TO DICSUSS THE STATUS OF DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NATO FORUM WHERE HE SHOULD ALSO GIVE AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE AGREEMENT WILL LOOK LIKE UNDER THE BEST POSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES. I UNDERLINED THE ADVERSE IMPACT AN INADEQUATE DANISH DEFENSE SPENDING LEVEL MIGHT HAVE ON OTHER NATO COUNTRIES AND THAT WE HOPED THAT NEW DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT CALL FOR SPENDING REDUCTIONS OVER THE FIRST ONE OR TWO YEARS OF THE AGREEMENT. I THEN REVIEWED THE VARIOUS DEMARCHES I HAD MADE WITH PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN, DEFENSE MINISTER MOLLER AND MENTIONED SECRETARY RUMSFELD'S LETTER TO MOLLER ON THIS VERY SUBJECT.

2. EIGIL JORGENSEN REPLIED THAT DANISH DEFENSE
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SPENDING WOULD GO DOWN UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND THERE IS NO, REPEAT NO, POSSIBILITY OF GETTING POLITICAL AGREEMENT IN DENMARK ON A DIFFERENT COURSE. HE CLAIMED, HOWEVER, THAT IF ONE INCLUDES IN THE "DEFENSE BUDGET" THE MILITARY

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EXPENDITURES FOR PROTECTING THE 200 MILE FISHING
ZONE AROUND GREENLAND AS WELL AS THE INCREASES FOR
CONSCRIPT SALARIES WHICH ARE PRESENTLY OUTSIDE,
REPEAT OUTSIDE, THE DEFENSE BUDGET, THEN TOTAL
DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN THE FIRST YEARS OF THE
AGREEMENT WOULD NOT GO DOWN. FURTHERMORE, HE
STRESSED THAT IF PRESENT PLANS MATERIALIZE, DEFENSE
EXPENDITURES WOULD INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE
LAST TWO YEARS OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD RESULT
IN SOME REAL INCREASES OVER THE PERIOD AS A WHOLE.
HE SAID IT WAS USELESS TO SPECULATE ON WHEN AN
AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED SINCE THIS DEPENDED ON
THE POLITICAL SITUATION PREVAILING IN DENMARK;
NEVERTHELESS, HE THOUGHT THE BEST CHANCE FOR REACHING
AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE SOMETIME IN JANUARY.

3. JORGENSEN AGREED THAT IT MIGHT BE OF SOME VALUE
FOR AMBASSADOR SVART IN NATO TO REVIEW DANISH THINKING
ON THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND, DEPENDING ON DEVELOP-
MENTS IN DENMARK IN EARLY JANUARY, MIGHT SO INSTRUCT
THE DANISH DELEGATE. HE POINTED OUT THAT SVART HAD
MENTIONED AT THE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING DECEMBER 7-8
THAT DENMARK WOULD INFORM NATO ON THE PROGRESS OF ITS
NEGOTIATIONS AND JANUARY MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME FOR
THAT.

4. COMMENT: IF AMBASSADOR SVART DOES DISCUSS THE
DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT IN NATO NEXT MONTH, I HOPE
OTHER PERM REPS IN ADDITION TO OURS WILL ALSO
VOICE THEIR CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCED
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DANISH DEFENSE SPENDING. IT WOULD HELP US HERE IN
COPENHAGEN IF THE US WERE NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY TO
SPEAK UP VIGOROUSLY ON THIS ISSUE. SPECIFICALLY,
IT WOULD HELP IF THE UK, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS AND
NORWAY VOICE SIMILAR CONCERN.
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